

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 4, 2026

Ephesians 4:25-32

A few weeks ago in the Bismarck UCC kitchen, homegrown Bismarck grapes were transformed into hand-pressed grape juice for this year's Communion. Life was shared, stories were told, and time became both mundane and sacred as the grapes were sorted, cooked, and canned. Thank you to Marcia Patrie and Mary Blumhagen for preparing this special Communion element. Today, we are blessed to be able to share our Bismarck UCC made Communion juice for the first time on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4.

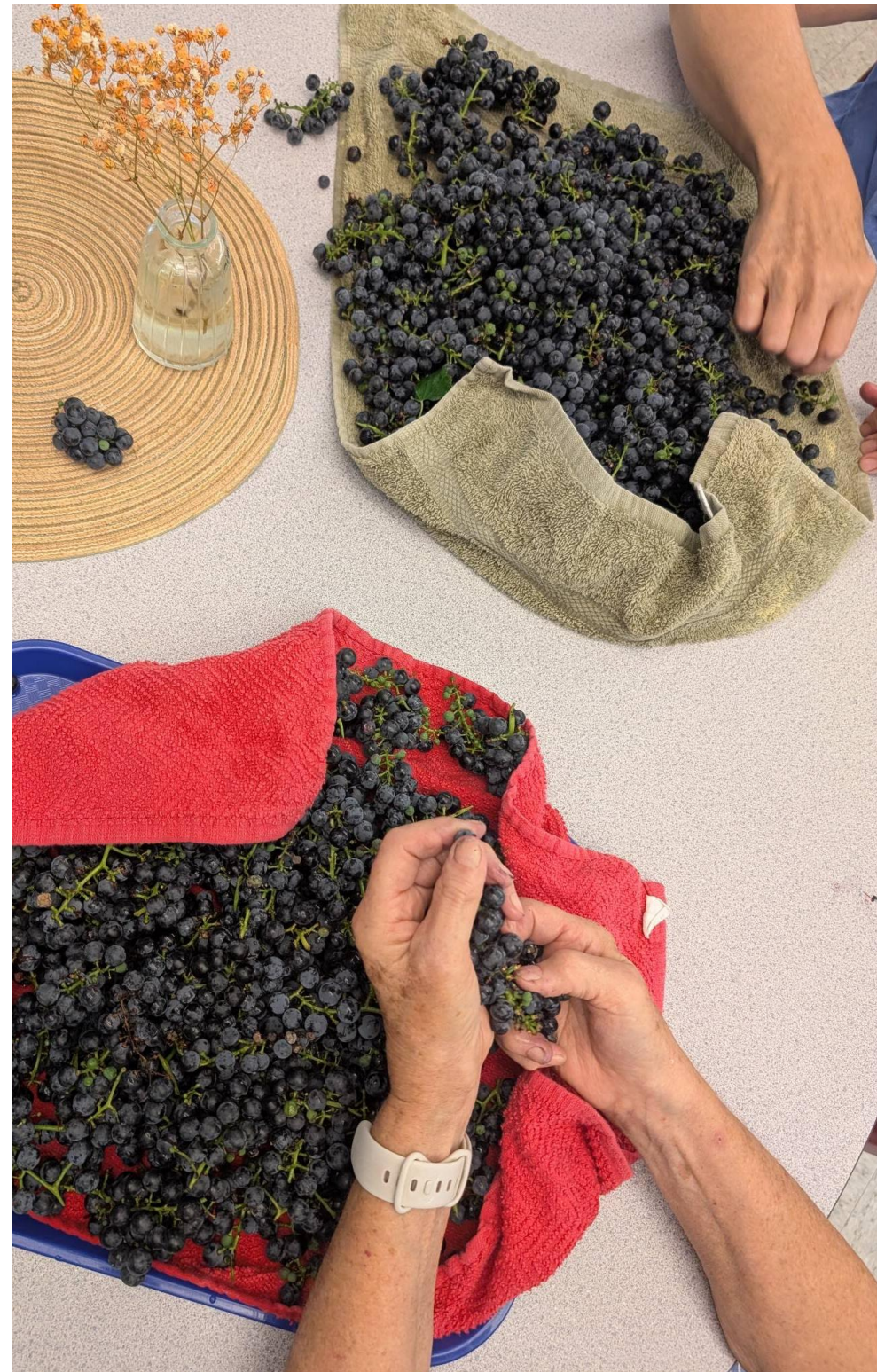
"World Communion Sunday powerfully reminds us of what is always true when we participate in the sacrament of Holy Communion: at Christ's table we are all one. In a nation and world afflicted with so much conflict, hatred and division, we need this blessed reminder," said Rev. Shari Prestemon, UCC Associate General Minister. "We are also compelled to demonstrate a commitment to building unity and peace in our lives every day," she added.

World Communion Sunday, held the first Sunday in October, was the idea of Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr. In 1933, the Presbyterian minister wanted to lift the biblical reality that through baptism, congregations worldwide were connected to one another. Kerr often cited Ephesians, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

In 1940, against the backdrop of World War II, when division and discourse were ripping apart the seam of unity, the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches — the predecessor of today's National Council of Churches — embraced World Communion Sunday. It was soon adopted by many denominations, including the UCC.

Today, though, unity is once again being pulled at the seams as political dissension grows. "In a time when more boundaries are set up — physical and psychological — World Communion Sunday is a time to celebrate the ways the Church is enabling the breaking down of the dividing walls," said Dr. Peter E. Makari, Global Relations Minister, Middle East and Europe.

Selections from Donna Jackson, United Church of Christ News. Sept. 23, 2025.





1200 E Highland Acres Rd, Bismarck, ND 58501

701-223-2915 www.uccbismarck.org

October 4, 2026 at 10 AM Worship

World Communion Sunday

Pastor: Rev. Gretchen Deeg | Liturgist: Hannah Vanorny

Music: Boram Chern | Video: Kirby Kruger

NO MATTER

Sing! 35

No matter who, no matter what
No matter where you are on the journey of life;
You're welcome, welcome in this place.
Accepted and welcomed by God's grace.

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹

All: We are all part of God's creation!

*OPENING PRAYER²

*HYMN In Christ There is No East or West NCH 395

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:1-6

SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS Derrick Gross
CATCH: Communities Acting Together for Change and Hope

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Children are invited to remain in worship. Sunday School will resume next week.

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, our heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

God Almighty, we fall on our faces at the thought of the closeness of your holiness. We fall down in shame because unlike your heavenly host, we do not daily contemplate your holiness as we ought. Our country does not reflect your holiness as your heavens do. Forgive us for opening our eyes to lies, theft, and slander. Forgive us for debauchery and injustice; forgive us for turning a blind eye to the cries of the orphan and the widow. We are powerless to change our enemies' hearts, but as for our own hearts, we want to stand before you and break them upon the knowledge of your holiness. Amen.

*GLORIA

Glory be to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Psalm 19 & Ephesians 4:25-32

SERMON Rev. Gretchen Deeg

HYMN As We Gather at Your Table NCH 332

COMMUNION Let Us Break Bread Together NCH 330

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, we give thanks for the fruits of the vine and the grains of the earth which sustain us. May this meal we have shared nourish and strengthen us to grow in communion with you and one another. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN O Christ, the Great Foundation NCH 387

CARRY GOD'S LOVE

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #732302-A.

¹ Adapted from Magdaléna Trgalová, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren.

² Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, Zimbabwe. Adaptation of "A Non-Traditional Blessing" by Sr. Ruth Fox.

³ Ihor Skrypnychenko. "Light in Our Darkness." www.reformedworship.org/resource/light-our-darkness-prayer-and-ukraine. 2023.



Thank You for Worshiping with Us!

Your offerings are essential for the ongoing ministry of this congregation. Donations can be made using this QR code, online at www.uccbismarck.org/donate, mailed to the church, or placed in the offering box.

Sponsor a Sunday

All of October is available. If you would like to sponsor a future Sunday, contact the church office at 223-2915 or visit uccbismarck.org/donate. Sponsorships are \$500.

Fall Paint Party - TODAY

Learn to paint your own pumpkin masterpiece. The class is led by Nina Loeks with Art from the Heart. The cost is \$30 per person and includes all supplies. Due at time of class.



United Way Backpack Program

From Sept. 18 to Oct. 4 we are accepting donations to help over 1,700 children that rely on the backpack program for food over the weekends. Donations can be placed in the tote in the narthex.

Welcoming New Members - Oct. 11

Have you been enjoying this church family? Are you interested in membership? Contact Pastor Gretchen to join this community of faith in worship on Oct. 11.

Info Session: School Meals - Oct. 11

After worship there will be an informational session held downstairs about the School Meals for All constitutional ballot measure. Discussion will include what an initiated constitutional measure is, how the process works, the language of the proposed constitutional measure, and more.

German Supper - Oct. 17

Plans are underway for Bismarck UCC's German Supper and we need your help selling tickets, preparing food, bringing pans, serving tables, and eating fleischkuekle, borscht, and more! Stop by the table outside the sanctuary to get tickets and volunteer. (Mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 10 to help make fleischkuekle!)

THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES: October 4 - 11

- Sunday:** 11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
2 PM Fall Paint Party
- Tuesday:** 1 PM Quilting Knitting
6:30 PM Deacons (on-site & [online](#))
- Wednesday:** 5:15 PM Trustees (on-site & [online](#))
6 PM Youth Group
7 PM Choir Practice
- Thursday:** 6 PM Bible Study (on-site & [online](#))
7 PM Bismarck Game Club
- Friday:** 9 AM Bible Study (on-site & [online](#))
- Saturday:** 10 AM Fleischkuekle Making
- Sunday:** **New Member Sunday**
10 AM Sunday Worship
10:20 AM Sunday School
11 AM Fellowship & 12 Noon [Online](#) Fellowship
11:15 AM Info Session: School Meals

Neighbors in Need - Oct. 18

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. When you give to Neighbors in Need, you help build a just world for all. Thank you!

Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat

The Sunday School kids is delivering fliers on Oct. 18 and the youth group is collecting food from the neighborhood on Wednesday, Oct. 28 for hungry families in Bismarck through the work of Jack's Food Pantry & Adopt-a-Block. You can participate by bringing food donations throughout the month.



OUR PRAYER LIST

Tove Mandigo, Jerry Lydeen, Evan Mandigo, Julie, Ivan Sadlier (Autum's uncle), Jody Miller, Kayla Bruning, Bella Bruning, Matthew Nitschke, Cooper (Brandon & Tasha Domagala's son), Amanda Wilson, Frank Picard, Carla Christenson (Monica Klein's mother), Fredrick Krause (Kerri Kraft's grandfather), Robyn Richter (Kyle Eisenbraun's aunt), Doretta Reule, Howard Etson, East Timor, Refugees

*Contact the church office to be added to our weekly prayer list.

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In Christ There Is No East or West

*1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:14-22**John Oxenham, 1908; alt.
St. 3, Laurence Hull Stookey, 1987*

- 1 In Christ there is no East or West, in Christ no South or North;
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 In Christ is nei - ther Jew nor Greek, and nei - ther slave nor free;
4 In Christ now meet both East and West, in Christ meet South and North;



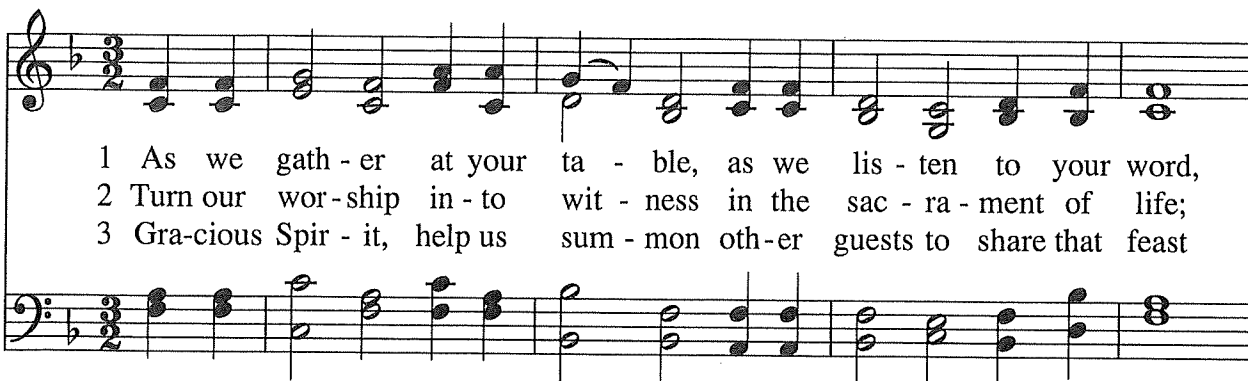
But one com - mu - ni - ty of love through - out the whole wide earth.
God's ser - vice is the gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
For men and wom - en live in God, and all are kin to me.
One joy - ous, true com - mu - ni - ty through - out the whole wide earth.



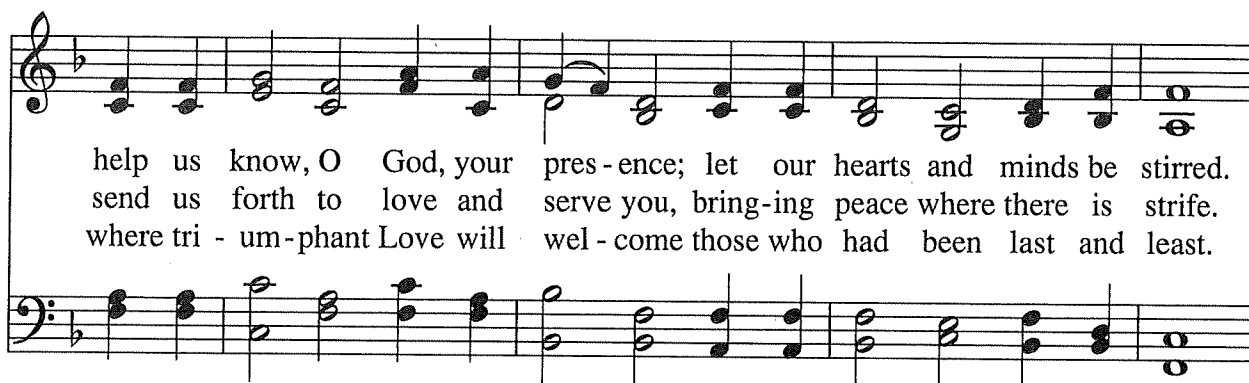
As We Gather at Your Table

Matt. 22:1-10; Luke 14:16-24

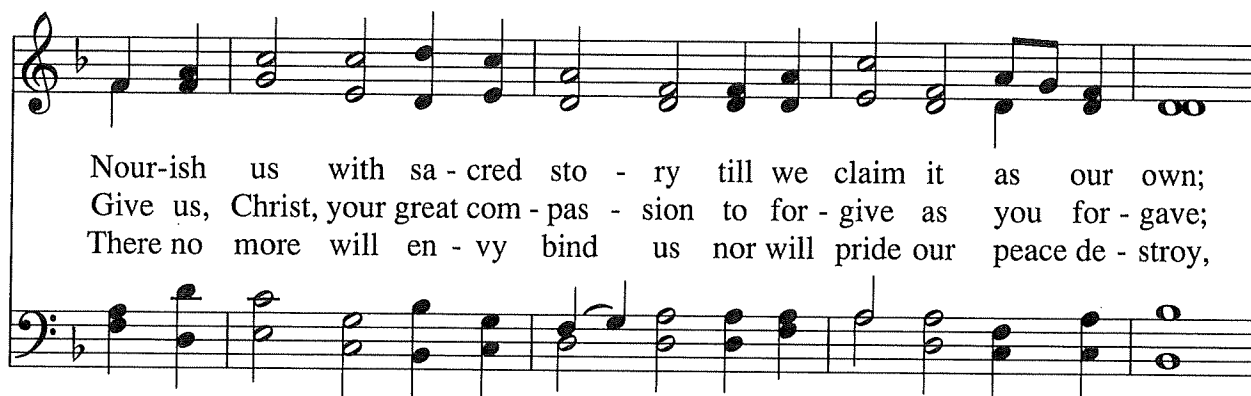
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989



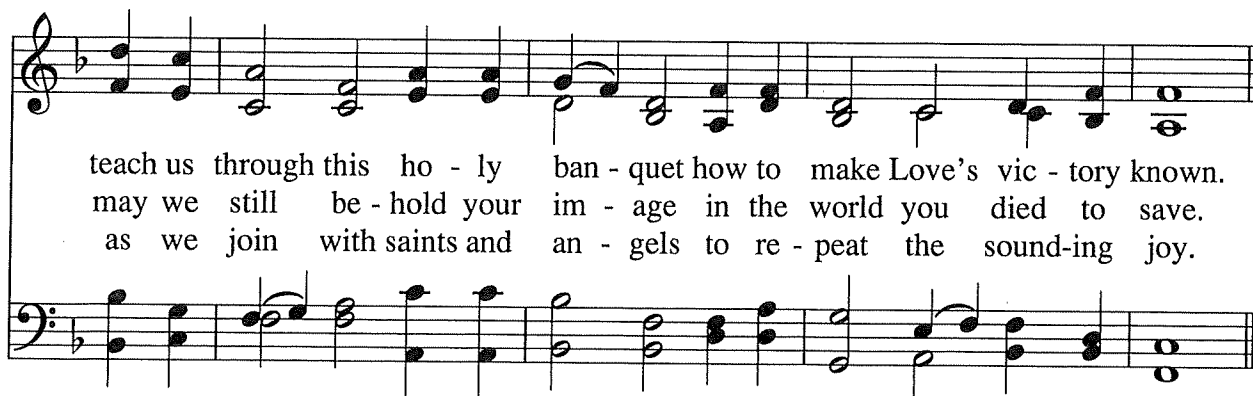
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 * 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

My God, have mer - cy on me.

1-2 || 3

O Christ, the Great Foundation

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*Timothy Tingfang Lew, 1933; alt.
Transl. Frank W. Price, 1953; alt.*

Acts 2:17-21; Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 1:18-20

- 1 O Christ, the great foun-da-tion
on which your peo-ple stand
to preach your true sal-va-tion
in ev-ery age and land:
Pour out your Ho-ly Spir-it
to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith un-bro-ken
as long as worlds en-dure.
- 2 Bap-tized in one con-fes-sion,
one church in all the earth,
we bear Christ's own im-pres-sion,
the sign of sec-ond birth:
One ho-ly peo-ple gath-ered
in love be-yond our own,
by grace we were in-vit-ed,
by grace we make you known.
- 3 Where ty-rants' hold is tight-ened,
where strong de-vour the weak,
where in-no-cents are fright-ened,
the righ-teous fear to speak,
There let your church a-wak-ing
at-tack the powers of sin
and, all their ram-parts break-ing,
with you the vic-tory win.
- 4 This is the mo-ment glo-rious
when Christ who once was dead
shall lead the church vic-to-rious,
their cham-pion and their head.
The Sov-ereign of cre-a-tion
a new do-min-ion brings,
the fi-nal con-sum-ma-tion,
the glo-ry of all things.

Timothy Tingfang Lew was born in China and was educated both there and in the United States. He served as representative to the World Council of Churches from 1927 to 1939 and chaired the commission that prepared the Chinese Union hymnbook in 1936.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864